

Subpart HHH—Lands of the Navajo, Ute Mountain Ute, and All Other New Mexico Tribes

SOURCE: 53 FR 43104, Oct. 25, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

§ 147.3000 EPA-administered program.

(a) *Contents.* The UIC program for Navajo Indian lands, except for Class II wells on Navajo Indian lands for which EPA has granted the Navajo Nation primacy for the SDWA Class II UIC program (as defined in §147.3400), the Ute Mountain Ute (Class II wells only on Ute Mountain Ute lands in Colorado and all wells on Ute Mountain Ute lands in Utah and New Mexico), and all wells on other Indian lands in New Mexico is administered by EPA. (The term “Indian lands” is defined at 40 CFR 144.3.) The Navajo Indian lands are in the States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah; and the Ute Mountain Ute lands are in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah. This program consists of the UIC program requirements of 40 CFR parts 124, 144, 146, 148, and additional requirements set forth in the remainder of this subpart. The additions and modifications of this subpart apply only to the Indian lands described above. Injection well owners and operators, and EPA shall comply with these requirements.

(b) *Effective date.* The effective date for the UIC program on these lands, except for Class II wells on Navajo Indian lands for which EPA has granted the Navajo Nation primacy for the SDWA Class II UIC program (as defined in §147.3400), is November 25, 1988.

[53 FR 43104, Oct. 25, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 9422, Mar. 6, 1991; 73 FR 65565, Nov. 4, 2008]

§ 147.3001 Definition.

Area of review. For the purposes of this subpart, area of review means the area surrounding an injection well or project area described according to the criteria set forth in §147.3009 of this subpart.

§ 147.3002 Public notice of permit actions.

An applicant shall give public notice of his intention to apply for a permit as follows:

(a) Prior to submitting an application to the Director, the applicant shall give notice to each landowner, tenant, and operator of a producing lease within one-half mile of the well and to the affected Tribal Government. The notice shall include:

(1) Name and address of applicant;

(2) A brief description of the planned injection activities including well location, name and depth of the injection zone, maximum injection pressure and volume, and source and description of the fluid to be injected;

(3) Name, address, and phone number of the EPA contact person; and

(4) A statement that opportunity to comment will be announced to the public after EPA prepares a draft permit.

(b) In addition to the requirements of §144.31(e) of this chapter, a permit applicant shall submit a description of the way the notice was given and the names and addresses of those to whom it was given.

(c) Upon written request and supporting documentation, the Director may waive the requirement in paragraph (a) of this section to give individual notice of intent to apply for permits in an area where it would be impractical. However, notice to the affected Tribal government shall not be waived.

(d) The Director shall also provide to the affected Tribal government all notices given to State governments under §124.10(c) of this chapter.

§ 147.3003 Aquifer exemptions.

(a) *Aquifer exemptions in connection with Class II wells.* In accordance with §144.7(b) and §146.4 of this chapter, the portions of authorized injection zones into which existing Class II wells are currently injecting which are described in appendix A are hereby exempted. The exempted aquifers are defined by a one-quarter mile radius from the existing injection well. The exemption includes the intended injection zone only and is solely for the purpose of Class II injection.

(b) *Class III wells.* In addition to the requirements of §144.7(c)(1) of this chapter, an applicant for a uranium mining permit which necessitates an aquifer exemption shall submit a plugging and abandonment plan containing

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an aquifer cleanup plan, acceptable to the Director, describing the methods or techniques that will be used to meet the standards of §147.3011. The cleanup plan shall include an analysis of pre-injection water quality for the constituents required by the Director. The Director shall consider the cleanup plan in addition to the other information required for permit applications under §§144.31(e) and 146.34 of this chapter.

§ 147.3004 Duration of rule authorization for existing Class I and III wells.

Notwithstanding §144.21(a)(3)(i)(B) of this chapter, authorization by rule for existing Class I and III wells will expire 90 days after the effective date of this UIC program unless a complete permit application has been submitted to the Director.

§ 147.3005 Radioactive waste injection wells.

Notwithstanding §§144.24 and 146.51(b) of this chapter, owners and operators of wells used to dispose of radioactive waste (as defined in 10 CFR part 20, appendix B, table II, but not including high level and transuranic waste and spent nuclear fuel covered by 40 CFR part 191) shall comply with the permitting requirements pertaining to Class I wells in parts 124, 144 and 146 of this chapter, as modified and supplemented by this subpart.

§ 147.3006 Injection pressure for existing Class II wells authorized by rule.

(a) *Rule-authorized Class II saltwater disposal wells.* In addition to the requirements of §144.28(f)(3)(ii) of this chapter, the owner or operator shall, except during well stimulation, use an injection pressure measured at the wellhead that is not greater than the pressure calculated by using the following formula:

$$P_m = 0.2d$$

where:

P_m =injection pressure at the wellhead in pounds per square inch

d =depth in feet to the top of the injection zone.

Owners and operators shall comply with this requirement no later than

one year after the effective date of this program.

(b) *Rule-authorized Class II enhanced recovery and hydrocarbon storage wells.*

(1) In addition to the requirements of §144.28(f)(3)(ii) of this chapter, owners and operators shall use an injection pressure no greater than the pressure established by the Director for the field or formation in which the well is located. The Director shall establish such maximum pressure after notice (including notice to the affected Tribe), opportunity for comment, and opportunity for public hearing according to the provisions of part 124, subpart A, of this chapter, and shall inform owners and operators and the affected Tribe in writing of the applicable maximum pressure; or

(2) An owner or operator may inject at a pressure greater than that specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section for the field or formation in which he is operating after demonstrating in writing to the satisfaction of the Director that such injection pressure will not violate the requirements of §144.28(f)(3)(ii) of this chapter. The Director may grant such a request after notice (including notice to the affected Tribe), opportunity for comment and opportunity for a public hearing according to the provisions of part 124, subpart A of this chapter.

(3) Prior to the time that the Director establishes rules for maximum injection pressure under paragraph (b)(1) of this section the owner or operator shall:

(i) Limit injection pressure to a value which will not exceed the operating requirements of §144.28(f)(3)(ii); and

(ii) Submit data acceptable to the Director which defines the fracture pressure of the formation in which injection is taking place. A single submission may be made on behalf of two or more operators conducting operations in the same field and formation, if the Director approves. The data shall be submitted to the Director within one year of the effective date of this program.

§ 147.3007 Application for a permit.

(a) Notwithstanding the requirements of §144.31(c)(1) of this chapter,